IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of the claims is as follows:

1-48. Canceled.

49. (Currently Amended) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals, the package being defined by a single sheet of laminate material that is folded along its length, the package including:

an inner barrier layer for defining a cavity to contain the energy storage device, the inner barrier layer having two opposed portions from between which the terminals extend from the cavity, the ~~proposed positions~~ opposed portions being ~~sealingly engaged~~ heat sealed along three opposed edges of the folded sheet and from between which the terminals extend from the cavity;

a sealant layer being disposed intermediate the inner barrier layer and at least one of the terminals for sealing the inner barrier layer to that one of the terminals and for offering a barrier to the passage of one or more contaminants into the cavity; and

an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer and having a metal layer wherein the terminals are aluminum and have a thickness of at least 50μm.

50-54. Canceled.

55. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 49 wherein the sealant layer is a resin containing between about 5% and 10% ethylene acrylic acid and wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

56. (Previously Presented) A package according to claim 55 wherein the sealant layer contains about 6% to 9% of ethylene acrylic acid.

57-58. Canceled.

59. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 49 wherein the outer barrier layer includes a first plastics layer bonded to the outside of the metal layer.

60. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 59 wherein the plastics layer is ~~about~~ polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and the plastics layer is less than 30 µm thick ~~in thickness~~.

61. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 59 wherein the outer barrier layer includes a second plastics layer bonded to the inside of the metal layer, wherein the second plastics layer is selected from the group consisting of: PET; polyamide; polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC); and polypropylene (PP) and wherein the second plastics layer is less than about 15 µm thick ~~the plastics layer includes any one or more of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) and polypropylene (PPP)~~.

62-69. Canceled.

70. (Amended) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals formed from aluminum and having a thickness of at least 50 µm, the package including ~~comprising: a sheet of laminate material folded along the length, the sheet comprising~~:

an inner barrier layer for defining a cavity to contain the energy storage device, the inner barrier layer having two opposed portions from between which the terminals extend from the cavity, ~~the opposed portions being sealingly engaged along three opposed edges of the folded sheet~~;

a sealant layer being disposed intermediate the inner barrier layer and at least one of the terminals for sealing the inner barrier layer to that one of the terminals and for offering a barrier to the passage of one or more contaminants into the cavity, and

an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer and having a metal layer wherein the package is formed from two separate opposed sheets of laminate which are abutted and heat sealed about their entire adjacent peripheries and wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point, respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

71. (Currently Amended) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals, the package being defined by a single sheet of laminate material that is folded along its length, the package including:

an inner barrier layer for defining a cavity to contain the energy storage device, the inner barrier layer having two opposed portions from between which the terminals ~~sealingly engaged with each other and from between which the terminals~~ extend from the cavity, the opposed portions being heat sealed along three opposed edges of the folded sheet and from between which the terminals extend from the cavity;

~~an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer, the outer layer having a metal layer; and~~

a sealant layer being disposed intermediate the inner barrier layer and at least one of the terminals for sealing the inner barrier layer to that one of the terminals and for offering a barrier to the passage of one or more contaminants into the cavity;

an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer and having a metal layer, the outer barrier layer including a first plastics layer bonded to the outside of the metal layer, the outer barrier layer also including a second plastics layer bonded to the inside of the metal layer, the second plastics layer being selected from the group consisting of: PET; polyamide; polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC); and polypropylene (PP); and

wherein the inner barrier layer includes a third plastics layer that is bonded to the inside of the outer barrier layer and the third plastics layer is heat sealable and is selected from the group consisting of: PVdC; and polyethylene (PE), and wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

72. (New) A package according to claim 49, wherein the sealant layer contains one of: one or more maleic anhydrides; maleic acid; one or more anhydride grafted polyolefins; and one or more acid modified polyolefins and wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

73. (New) A package according to claim 49, wherein the metal layer includes an aluminum sheet that is less than 20 μm thick and wherein the outer barrier layer and the

inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

74. (New) A package according to claim 59, wherein the plastics layer is less than 40 µm thick.

75. (New) A package according to claim 74, wherein the plastics layer is less than 30 µm thick.

76. (New) A package according to claim 61, wherein the inner barrier layer includes a third plastics layer that is bonded to the inside of the outer barrier layer, wherein the third plastics layer is heat sealable and is selected from the group consisting of: PVdC; and polyethylene (PE) and wherein the third plastics layer is less than about 30 µm thick.

77. (New) A package according to claim 49, wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point and wherein the outer barrier layer includes a first plastics layer bonded to the outside of the metal layer, the plastics layer being less than 30 µm thick.

78. (New) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals, the package including:

a first tie layer;

a second layer formed from a polyolefin, disposed adjacent the first layer and spaced apart from the terminals;

a third tie layer disposed adjacent the second layer and spaced apart from the first layer;

a metal layer disposed adjacent the third layer and spaced apart from the second layer;

a fourth tie layer disposed adjacent the metal layer and spaced apart from the third layer;

a fifth layer formed from one of polymide and polyester, the fifth layer disposed adjacent the fourth layer and spaced apart from the metal layer; and

a sealant layer being disposed between, and being sealing engaged with, the first layer and the terminals, wherein the package sealingly contains the energy storage device and the terminals are accessible from outside the package for allowing external electrical connection to

the energy storage device and wherein the first, third and further layers are of a thickness between 1 μm and 10 μm and the second, metal and fifth layers are of a thickness between 15 μm and 100 μm.